1

That New Phone Experience

In This Chapter

- Liberating your phone from its box
- Installing the SIM card and battery
- Charging the battery
- Identifying important things
- Reviewing optional accessories
- Keeping the phone in one place

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I remember my first cell phone. I bought it in the early 1990s, and the gizmo cost me $600. The plan cost $45 per month plus $1.50 per minute of talk time. The cell signal didn't reach my house, so I could use it only in town — or if I wandered up to the roof and stood there during a call. Even so, I was thrilled to have a device unlike anything I'd ever owned, especially a gadget that let me do something wonderful, such as place a phone call from anywhere (well, anywhere it received a signal).

Your HTC ThunderBolt can be your first phone, your first cell phone, your first smartphone, and probably your first 4G LTE phone. It's an amazing gizmo, full of potential and loaded with things that will confound and confuse you. Before all that happens, you need to free the device from the confines of its box, give it a look-see, and complete other preliminary but important tasks.

Liberation

The first thing you do with a new electronic item is liberate it from the confines of its box or container. You repeat the same process for a new phone, though because most folks buy their phones at the Phone Store, odds are good that the people in the store have already freed your ThunderBolt from the confines of its HTC packaging.

Yes, it's akin to having your mom open your Christmas presents for you, but, as I was told at the Phone Store, it's "company policy." How devastating.

Whether the phone was manhandled by the salesperson in the Phone Store or you received the phone in another manner, this section covers removing the phone from its pretty box, setting up a few things, and getting the battery charged.

- Odds are good that the phone has already been configured to work on the Verizon cellular network. If not, you need to contact Verizon to get your ThunderBolt working. Someone there will be more than happy to help you set things up:

  `www.verizonwireless.com`

  (800) 922-0204

- The initial setup done at the Phone Store involves identifying the ThunderBolt with the cellular network. Basically, the phone's network ID is associated with the network and then magically mapped to your cell phone bill.
- Additional setup beyond configuring the phone for the cellular network involves setting up Google accounts for the ThunderBolt. This process might have been done with help from the people at the Phone Store, or you can do it on your own. This topic is covered in Chapter 2.

Unpacking the phone

Opening the box that the HTC ThunderBolt comes in can be a thrill. It's a pretty box, or at least the box my ThunderBolt came in had its charm. Opening the box is like opening a Christmas present or jewelry. It's fun.

A cling sheet of plastic on the front of the phone. It says, "Remove before use," which is printed on the cling sheet and not displayed on the phone's screen. The plastic is used for shipping purposes only, so feel free to peel it off your phone.

Along with the phone, you find some other items in the box:

- The battery, which may have already been installed into the phone by the cheerful Phone Store employee.
- A USB cable, which is used to connect the ThunderBolt to a computer or to a wall charger.
- A wall charger, or power adapter, which plugs into the USB cable.
- Pamphlets, warnings, and warranties that you can merrily avoid reading.

Free the USB cable and wall charger from their plastic wrapping because you need them in order to charge the ThunderBolt, covered later in this chapter.

- I recommend keeping the box for as long as you own your ThunderBolt. If you ever need to return the thing, or ship it anywhere, the original box is the ideal container. You can shove all those useless pamphlets and papers back into the box as well.
- One handy thing to have, which is missing in the box: headphones. See the section "Adding accessories," later in this chapter.
- If anything is missing or damaged, contact the folks who sold you the phone.

Inserting the SIM card

Before you can use your ThunderBolt, and before you install its battery, you must ensure that its SIM card is installed. The SIM card was most likely installed at the Phone Store. If so, great; you can skip this section. Otherwise, you need to install the SIM card, and you need to do so before you insert the battery (because the SIM card sits behind the battery inside the phone).

Obey these steps to install the SIM card into your ThunderBolt:

1. **If necessary, remove the phone's battery.**

   Refer to the next section, "Installing the battery," for removal instructions.

2. **If you haven't already, pop the SIM card out of its credit-card-like holder.**

   The SIM card ships as part of a larger piece of plastic, approximately the same size as a credit card. You need to pop out the SIM card before you can insert it into your ThunderBolt.

3. **Locate and slide out the SIM card carrier, found at the bottom of the battery compartment.**

   Use Figure 1-1 as your guide. The SIM card carrier works like a tiny, delicate, metal drawer.

4. **Place the SIM card into the carrier, as illustrated later, in Figure 1-6.**

   The notch in the corner of the SIM card sits in the lower left corner; it fits in only one way. The gold-plated connectors are face-down in the phone.

5. **Slide the SIM and its carrier back down into the bottom of the battery compartment.**

6. **Replace the battery and the phone's back cover.**

   See the next section for proper battery-replacement directions.

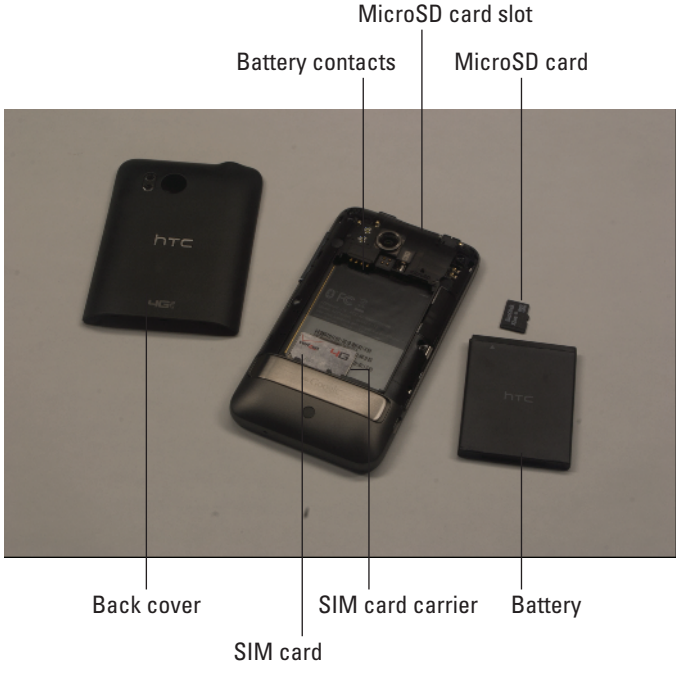

Figure 1-1: ThunderBolt guts.

You'll probably never need to remove the SIM card from your ThunderBolt, but if you do, simply repeat these steps and lift out the SIM card in Step 4.

- See the nearby sidebar "SIM card nonsense" for more information on this SIM card nonsense.
- In a few instances, the ThunderBolt doesn't come with the SIM card preinstalled, such as when you're transferring service to a new phone or when you've ordered your phone from an outfit that doesn't supply SIM cards. Either way, you need to install the SIM card to use the ThunderBolt as a phone.
- The ThunderBolt requires a 4G, LTE SIM card compatible with Verizon's GSM network. You can't just use any old SIM card and expect the phone to work.

SIM card nonsense

The HTC ThunderBolt features a *SIM card,* which sets the phone's identity. The SIM, which stands for Subscriber Identity Module, contains a special serial number that's used by your cellular provider to help identify your phone and keep track of the calls you make. Additionally, the SIM can be used to store information, such as electronic messages and names and addresses, though you probably won't use this feature on your ThunderBolt.

A typical way to use a SIM is to replace a broken phone with a new one: You plug the SIM from the old phone into the new phone, and instantly the phone is recognized as your own. Of course, the two phones need to use similar cellular networks for the transplant operation to be successful. For the ThunderBolt, that means the other phone must be a GSM-based, 4G, LTE device.

On the ThunderBolt, it's the MicroSD card that's used as the phone's primary storage device, where you keep your music, photos, and other types of information as described throughout this book. But you still need a SIM card to make phone calls on the cellular network.

Installing the battery

As with the SIM card (see the preceding section), the ThunderBolt's battery may have already been installed by a cheerful Phone Store employee, depriving you of the opportunity of doing so yourself. If so, you can skip this section. If not, the battery comes loose inside the ThunderBolt's box and you need to install the battery inside the phone.

Follow these steps to install the battery into your phone:

1. **Ensure that the phone isn't connected to anything.**

   You should disconnect the phone from the USB cable, headsets, or anything else that might be attached.

2. **Flip the phone over so that the front (the glassy part) is facing away from you.**

3. **Remove the back cover.**

   The thumbnail notch at the top of the phone is illustrated in Figure 1-2: Stick your fingernail into the slot and pry off the phone's back cover. It takes some effort, but eventually the cover pops off, making a horrid crunchy sound as it's removed.

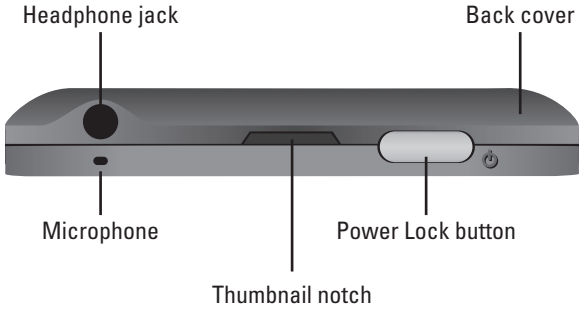

Figure 1-2: Removing the ThunderBolt's back cover.

4. **Set aside the back cover.**

   Marvel at the phone's guts, as shown in Figure 1-1.

5. **If you're installing a new battery, remove it from its plastic wrapping.**

6. **Orient the battery so that its metallic contacts are in the upper left corner as you're looking at the back of the phone.**

   There's a tiny arrow or triangle in the upper left part of the battery, which points at the contacts as the battery is inserted.

7. **Insert the battery top edge first, and then lower the bottom edge, like you're closing the lid on a tiny box.**

   Refer to Figure 1-3 for help in positioning and inserting the battery.

Figure 1-3: Inserting the battery.

8. **Replace the phone's back cover.**

   After you're oriented with the phone, press the back cover onto the phone. Keep pressing around the back cover's edges until you don't hear any crunching sounds.

After the battery is installed, the next step is to charge the battery, conveniently covered next.

Removing the battery works by repeating these steps, but with two changes: First, ensure that the phone is turned off before you remove the back cover. See Chapter 2 for directions on turning off the phone. Second, rather than insert the battery in Step 7, you yank it out: Insert a fingernail at the bottom left part of the battery, as illustrated in Figure 1-4. Lift the battery, like you're lifting the lid on a box, and then remove the battery.

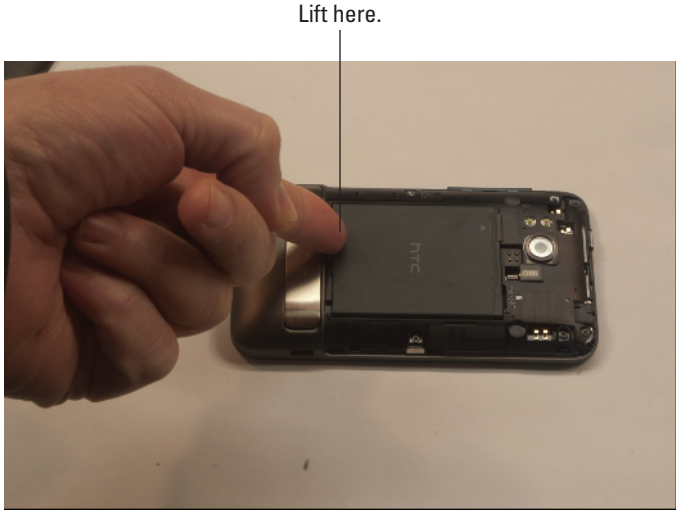

Figure 1-4: Removing the battery.

Installing or removing the battery isn't something you do often in your phone, but it's necessary in order to access the SIM or MicroSD card.

Charging the battery

The very first thing I recommend doing with your new phone is giving it a full charge. Assuming that the battery has been installed (see the preceding section), proceed with these steps:

1. **Attach the USB cable to the wall charger.**

   The cable plugs in only one way.

2. **Attach the USB cable to the ThunderBolt.**

   The cable plugs in only one way.

3. **Plug the wall charger into the wall.**

Upon success, you see an orange notification light appear in the phone's speaker mesh (at the top front part of the phone). It's the charging lamp, showing that the phone's battery is being rejuiced.

- Don't be alarmed if the orange notification light fails to appear.
- The notification light glows green when the ThunderBolt's battery has been completely charged.
- The ThunderBolt may have come fully charged from the factory, though I still recommend giving it an initial charge just in case, as well as to familiarize yourself with the process.
- The USB cable is used for both charging the phone and connecting it to a computer for sharing information, exchanging files, or using the ThunderBolt as a computer modem. See Chapter 20 for information on connecting your phone to the computer; see Chapter 19 for information on using the phone as a computer modem.

- You can also charge the phone by connecting it to a computer's USB port. As long as the computer is on, the phone charges.
- The battery charges more efficiently if you plug it into a wall, as opposed to charging it on a computer's USB port.
- You can charge the ThunderBolt using the power adapter in your car, if you have a car adapter charging accessory. See the section "Adding accessories," later in this chapter.

- The ThunderBolt's charging cable is a type of USB cable. The end that plugs into the phone is called a *micro-USB connector.* The other end is a standard *USB A connector.* Such a cable can be purchased at any computer or office supply store, or if you want to pay more money, you can get one at the Phone Store.

Examination and Orientation

Years ago, the telephone had a dial and a handset. The only ordeal you faced was determining which end of the handset to put to your ear and which end to put to your mouth. Things have changed in recent years, enough so that you need a more formal introduction to the various parts of your phone and what those parts are called.

Finding things on the phone

To peruse those things strange and wonderful on your phone, take a look at Figures 1-5 and 1-6. Every knob, hole, doodad, and smooth place has a name and purpose, as illustrated in the figures.

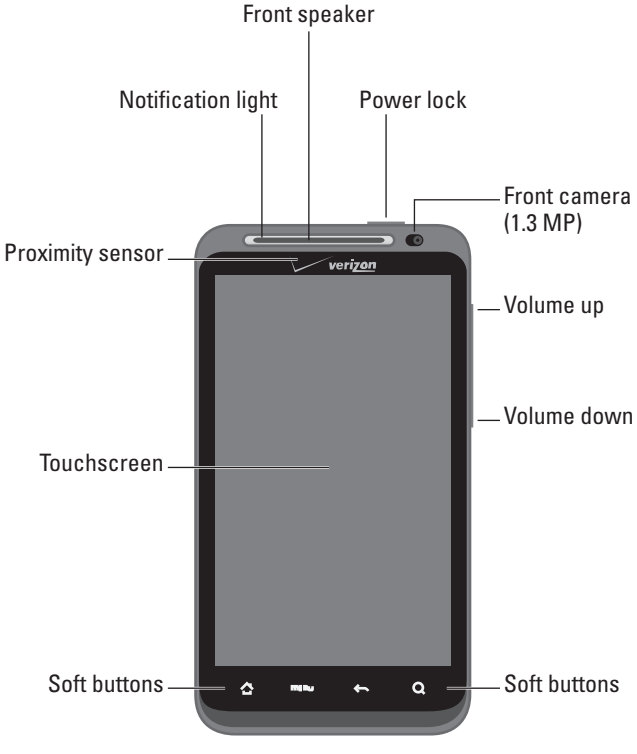

Figure 1-5: Your phone's face.

The items illustrated in Figures 1-5 and 1-6 are named using terms referenced throughout this book as well as in any ThunderBolt document you may have found with your phone or available online.

- The Power Lock button is found atop the phone, as shown in Figure 1-5 and 1-6. The button is used to turn the ThunderBolt on or off, as described in Chapter 2.
- The biggest part of the ThunderBolt is its touchscreen display, which occupies almost all the real estate on the front of the telephone. The touchscreen display is a touch-see gizmo. You look at it — and also touch it with your fingers.

Figure 1-6: Your phone's rump.

- Festooning the area just beneath the touchscreen are four icons. These are the *soft buttons,* which are used to control the phone's software. You can read more about the soft buttons in Chapter 3.
- The back of the phone features a kickstand, which can be pulled out to prop up the phone for tabletop horizontal viewing.
- The kickstand covers a large, beefy speaker on the phone's rump. Deploying the kickstand uncovers the speaker, allowing for a hoard of people to be entertained by the ThunderBolt all at once.
- Use the Volume buttons on the right side of the phone to set the volume.
- Cameras are on both the front and rear of the phone. The front-facing camera can be used for video chat, though no app is preinstalled on the ThunderBolt to take advantage of video chat. Using either camera to shoot pictures or videos is covered in Chapter 14.
- Visit my website at `www.wambooli.com/help/phone` for information on video chat apps that may appear in the future, after this book goes to press.

- The front-facing camera is a 1.3 megapixel (MP) camera, which is good enough for video chat and pictures you send to the Internet. The rear camera is the main camera, which weighs in at 8MP. Its higher resolution allows for more-detailed images, but the phone's primitive lens doesn't take pictures that look as good as ones taken by a dedicated digital camera.

Using earphones

One item you need in order to use the ThunderBolt, something that didn't come in the box, is a pair of earphones. They help you use the phone in a hands-free manner, and they also come in handy for privately listening to music or other media.

The most common type of cell phone earphones are the *earbud* type: The buds set into your ears. The sharp, pointy end of the earphones (the part you don't want to stick into your ear) plugs into the top of the phone.

Between the earbuds and the pointy thing is a doodle. On that doodle, you find a teensy microphone hole. The doodle might also serve as a button, which you can use to answer the phone, hang up, call someone back, play or pause music, or do other potentially useful things.

- The earbuds are labeled L for your left ear and R for the right ear.
- The ThunderBolt can use any standard set of earphones; remember, though, that you want earphones with a microphone attached.
- The volume is set on the ThunderBolt by using the Volume buttons on the side of the phone.
- Some earphones feature extra buttons on the doodle, such as Pause, Play, Fast-Forward, and Volume. These buttons have no effect when used on the ThunderBolt.
- Chapter 16 covers playing music on your ThunderBolt phone.
- It's also possible to go wireless by using a Bluetooth headset or earphone. See Chapter 19 for information on connecting a Bluetooth headset to your phone.

- To avoid tangling the earphone cables, consider folding the wires when you put them away: Put the earbuds in one hand and the pointy thing in the other. Fold the wire in half, and then in half again, and then again. You can then put the earphones in your pocket or set them on a tabletop. By folding the wires, you avoid looping them into an impossible Gordian knot.

Removing and inserting the MicroSD card

The *MicroSD card* is the phone's removable storage device, like a media card in a camera or a USB thumb drive on a computer. You use the MicroSD card to store stuff on the phone, such as pictures, music, and contacts — just like on a computer.

The phone's MicroSD card is preinstalled at the factory; you don't have to insert the card when you first configure the ThunderBolt. The only time you need to remove the card is when you want to replace it with another card or when you need to remove the card to use it in another device.

To remove the MicroSD card, follow these steps:

1. **Turn off your phone.**

   Specific directions are offered in Chapter 2, but for now: Press and hold the Power Lock button (refer to Figure 1-5) and choose the Power Off command from the Device Options menu.

   If the phone isn't turned off, you can damage the media card when you remove it.

   To ensure that the phone is turned off, press and release the Power button quickly. The phone shouldn't come back to life. If it does, repeat Step 1.

2. **Remove the phone's back cover and then remove the battery.**

   Specific directions for removing the phone's back cover and battery are found in the section "Installing the battery," earlier in this chapter.

3. **Use your fingernail to drag out the MicroSD card, as illustrated in Figure 1-7.**

The MicroSD card is truly an itty-bitty thing, much smaller than your typical media card. I would advise not leaving the MicroSD card lying about.

To insert a MicroSD card into your phone, follow these steps:

1. **Ensure that the ThunderBolt is turned off.**
2. **Open the phone's back cover.**
3. **Remove the battery.**
4. **Orient the MicroSD card so that the printed side is facing up.**
5. **Gently insert the MicroSD card into its slot, using Figure 1-7 as your guide.**

6. **Reinsert the battery.**
7. **Put the back cover on the phone.**

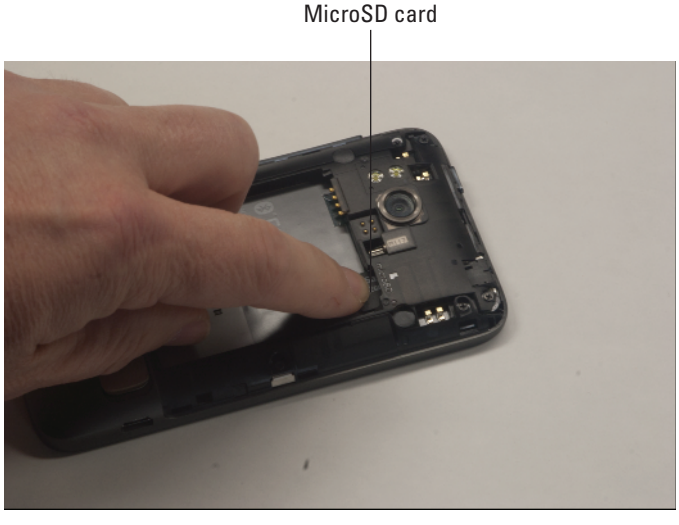

Figure 1-7: Accessing the MicroSD card.

After the MicroSD card is installed, you can turn on your phone. See Chapter 2 for details, though, basically, you just press and hold the Power button until the touchscreen comes to life.

- You can buy an SD card *adapter,* into which you can insert the MicroSD card. The SD card adapter can then be used in any computer or digital device that reads SD cards. Also, some USB adapters let you plug the MicroSD card into a thumb-drive-like device, which can be attached to any computer's USB port.
- SD stands for *Secure Digital.* It's but one of about a zillion different media card standards.
- MicroSD cards come in a smattering of capacities. The ThunderBolt ships with a 32GB MicroSD card, which is beefy, though you can buy a larger capacity if you and your credit card are willing.
- In addition to the MicroSD card, the ThunderBolt features internal storage, which is used for the programs you install as well as for the phone's operating system and other control programs. The internal storage isn't used for your personal information, media, and other items, which is why it's necessary to keep the MicroSD card inside your phone.

Adding accessories

It's hard to leave the Phone Store without first perusing the vast array of available phone accessories, including these standard items: earphones, vehicle chargers, genuine leatherette carrying cases, cables, and screen protectors. These items are all worthy of your attention, but two key accessories affect the phone's behavior: the Multimedia Desktop Charging Dock and the Window and Dash Vehicle Mount.

- No accessory is essential to using the ThunderBolt phone.
- Accessories also include various phone jackets and holsters.
- To find out more about earphones, see the section "Using earphones," earlier in this chapter.

- I recommend buying a screen protector. It clings to the touchscreen and truly helps keep it clean. Ensure that you get a screen protector designed for the HTC ThunderBolt and not for a lesser phone, especially one of those fruit-company phones.

The Multimedia Desktop Charging Dock

When nestled into the official HTC Multimedia Desktop Charging Dock, your phone displays a special multimedia menu, allowing you to play music or watch media while the phone charges.

The Multimedia Desktop Charging Dock also features an adapter that lets you charge a spare battery, if you have one of those for your ThunderBolt. (I suppose it's *another* accessory.)

The Window and Dash Vehicle Mount

There are quite a few car mounts and vehicle chargers you can get for your ThunderBolt. Any standard vehicle charger that features a micro-USB connector works with your phone. But of the lot of vehicle mounts, the Window and Dash Vehicle Mount from HTC is nifty.

In addition to allowing you to use the phone in both horizontal and vertical orientations, the Window and Dash Vehicle Mount is positioned in such a way that you can use the phone's main camera while you're driving. That way, you can record video of your trip (if the MicroSD card has enough storage). Make your own police chase videos!

Seriously, any car mount allows you to use your ThunderBolt while you drive. You can talk on the phone "hands free" or use the fancy navigation software to help you get where you're going. In fact, whenever the ThunderBolt is cradled in a car mount, the Navigation program, or *app,* runs automatically.

See Chapter 13 for more information on using your phone as your copilot.

A Home for the Phone

Your ThunderBolt phone ranks right up there with a lot of important things you use and don't want to lose, such as your car keys, glasses, wallet, and jet pack. As such, you should store and keep the phone in a handy, memorable location — even when you're carrying it around.

Toting your HTC ThunderBolt

The ThunderBolt is compact enough that it easily fits into your pocket or purse. The phone is designed so that you can carry it around without the risk of activating it or making one of those infamous "butt calls" — when you sit down and the phone in your pocket decides to dial up a friend.

The key thing to remember when carrying the ThunderBolt is not to forget that it's in your pants, purse, or coat. I consider myself fortunate that I've never sent my phone, in my pants pocket, through the wash. I have, however, tossed my coat on a couch and been mortified to watch the phone slide out and onto the floor.

- The ThunderBolt features a proximity sensor (refer to Figure 1-5), which disables the touchscreen while the phone is next to your face during a call or in your pocket or purse.
- Do not touch the Power Lock button when the phone is in your pocket. Doing so activates the touchscreen, making buttons such as End Call and Mute active.
- If you fear leaving your phone in your coat or purse, or sitting on the phone accidentally, consider buying one of those handsome carrying cases or belt clips. These accessories come in fine Naugahyde or leatherette.
- Also see Chapter 21 for information on using your ThunderBolt on the road.
- Rather than put your phone through the laundry, refer to Chapter 23 for proper phone-cleaning directions.

Storing the phone

I recommend finding a place for your phone when you're not taking it with you. Choose a location, such as on your desk by the computer, in the kitchen, on your nightstand, or in the same spot where you keep your car keys. The idea is to be consistent so that you can quickly find the phone when you need it.

- You can always find your phone by having someone call you and then hunting for the ring.
- A great place to store the phone when you're not using it is the Multimedia Desktop Charging Dock. See the section "The Multimedia Desktop Charging Dock," earlier in this chapter.
- I keep my ThunderBolt next to my computer when I'm not using it. This location has the bonus of my being able to attach the phone to the computer with the USB cable. I can charge the phone — and also synchronize my music, photos, videos, and other information while the phone is connected to the computer. See Chapter 20 for more synchronization information.

- Avoid storing the ThunderBolt in direct sunlight, because heat is bad for any electronic thingamabob.
- Don't put your phone on a coffee table or in a location where people stack magazines, the mail, or other items. You can too easily lose the phone in a pile of random stuff, or — worse — have someone do some cleaning and accidentally throw out the phone with the trash.